

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 has been amended to add the descriptive legend "Prior Art."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1 page)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 10, and 12. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, and 14 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections - Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Figure 1 has been amended to add the descriptive legend -- Prior Art--. A replacement sheet is enclosed herewith. Therefore, the withdrawal of the objection and the approval of the drawing change are respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutgen, et al. (US 6,160,639) in view of Narayanaswamy (US 6,611,358). The Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, and 14.

4.) Allowable Subject Matter

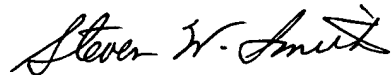
In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have rewritten the claims in this manner. Therefore, the allowance of claims 3, 5, 10, and 12 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 3, 5, 10, and 12.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 10-29-2004

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